

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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R 021240Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6618
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
USDOCOSOUTH/POLAD NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

UNCLAS ANKARA 1555

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TU, US
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON CLIFFORD MISSION, DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT AND NATO

1. CONSERVATIVE AND GENERALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "TERCUMAN"
MARCH 2 REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON GOT SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS AND
CLIFFORD MISSION. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF REPORT (DATELINED
LONDON) CONCERNING CLIFFORD MISSION:

BEGIN TEXT
BRITISH OFFICIALS DESCRIBE CLIFFORD AS A PERSON WHO IS
INFLUENCED BY MAKARIOS AND THE GREEKS. PRESIDENT CARTER'S
EMISSARY WENT TO LONDON AFTER HIS TALKS IN ATHENS, ANKARA AND
NICOSIA AND FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN GAVE A DINNER IN
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HIS HONOR AT WHICH CLIFFORD WAS INSISTENT THAT PRESSURE
HAD TO BE PUT ON THE TURKS. WHEN THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTED,
HE (CLIFFORD) LEFT THE PARTY IN ANGER. ACCORDING TO THE
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SOURCES VERY CLOSE TO THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT, CLIFFORD TOLD OWEN THAT THEY (THE U.S.) AWAITED
"POSITIVE CONDUCT" FROM BRITAIN. ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY
"POSITIVE CONDUCT", HE ANSWERED, "PRESSURE ON TURKEY." THE

FOREIGN SECRETARY DECLINED TO ACCEPT THE SUGGESTION AND IT WAS THEN THAT THE ENVOY LEFT THE DINNER. BRITISH OFFICIALS SAID OF CLIFFORD THAT HE IS "TOO MUCH UNDER MAKARIOS' AND THE GREEKS' INFLUENCE." THEY ALSO OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS CLOSE TO ATHENS AS WELL." END TEXT

2. "TERCUMAN", IN AN ARTICLE BY NECDET BERKAND DATELINED WASHINGTON, CARRIED ALLEGED INTERVIEW WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SPARKMAN WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY CAN BE LIFTED OR DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) RATIFIED BEFORE MAY. HOWEVER, SPARKMAN REPORTEDLY ADDED, "IN MY OPINION, CONGRESS WILL RATIFY THE DCA WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY." SPARKMAN WAS ALSO QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "THERE HAVE BEEN PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS. THE INFORMATION CLIFFORD GAVE ME BEFORE SETTING OUT ON HIS MISSION HAS CONFIRMED THIS. I DO NOT SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE (MILITARY) AID QUESTION AND CYPRUS SHOULD BE DEFINITELY SEPARATED. . . HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MAKING SOME DISTINCTION WILL HELP IN FINDING A SOLUTION (TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM)." SPARKMAN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE IS NO DENYING THAT THE U.S. BENEFITS FROM BASE PRESENCE IN TURKEY, THAT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THESE BASES WAS VERY VALUABLE, AND THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO CONTEMPLATE CLOSING THE BASES. ADDITIONALLY, "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE PARAPHRASED HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBER, REP. DONALD J. PEASE, AS SAYING IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CONFUSE MILITARY AID AND CYPRUS PROBLEMS. "NATO WOULD BE GREATLY WEAKENED BY TURKEY'S DEPARTURE. I HOPE THAT SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT OCCUR", PEASE REPORTEDLY SAID. BERKAND UNCLASSIFIED

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ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT WHITE HOUSE SOURCES SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY ON DCA AND THAT HE FAVORS RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT BUT IS FEARFUL OF REACTION FROM "EXTREMISTS" IN CONGRESS. ALSO, BERKAND SAID CARTER IS NOT EXPECTED TO SEEK DCA RATIFICATION BEFORE MAY. FINALLY, ARTICLE STATED THAT SOME CONGRESSMEN MAINTAIN, THAT, IF DCA IS NOT APPROVED AND EMBARGO IS CONTINUED, TURKEY WOULD NOT SEVER ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND WOULD NOT CLOSE NATO BASES. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO BERKAND, " A HIGH (U.S.) OFFICIAL SAID THESE CONGRESSMEN WERE MISTAKEN." UNNAMED U.S. OFFICIAL ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TURKISH DIPLOMATS DID NOT PAY SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS TO CORRECT SUCH ERRONEOUS BELIEFS, "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE CONCLUDED.

3. ON NATO AFFAIRS, "TERCUMAN" REPORTED THAT NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON, WAS BRIEFED ON MARCH 1 BY GOT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, REGARDING EFFECT OF U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKISH ARMED FORCES. ACCORDING TO "TERCUMAN", GOT OFFICIALS TOLD

HILL-NORTON THAT OTHER NATO ALLIES HAVE NOT EXTENDED MILITARY AID EITHER. TURKISH BRIEFERS REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD GOT AS "UNFRIENDLY" AND INSISTED THAT CYPRUS AND MILITARY AID QUESTIONS BE TREATED SEPARATELY. HILL-NORTON REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES TO NATO DEFENSES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED.
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